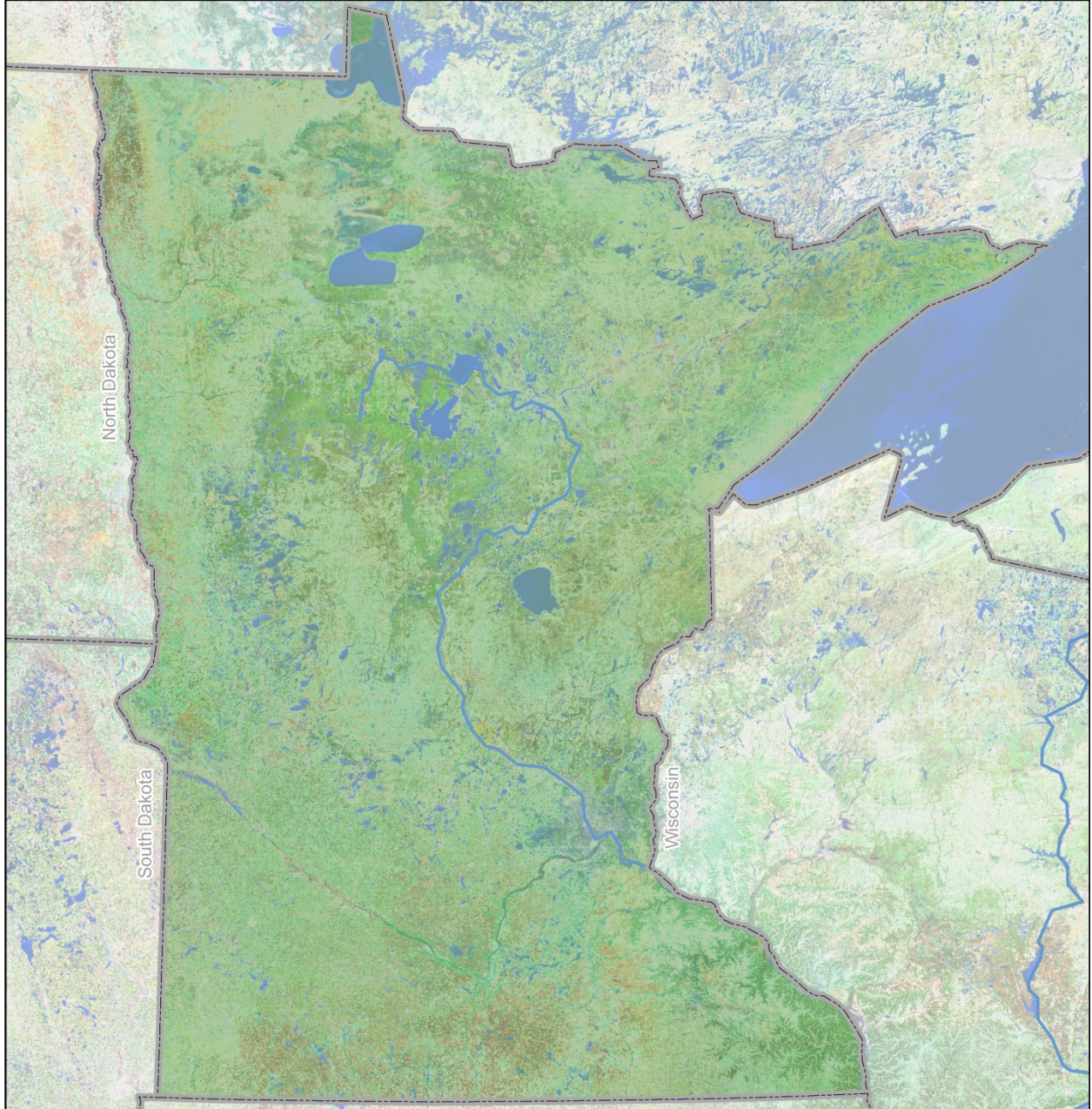


MINNESOTA ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 2018



DRAFT: January 19, 2018

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency

Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND DRAFT AVAILABILITY

STATE OF MINNESOTA 2018 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN (ACTION PLAN), SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE 2017-2021 CONSOLIDATE PLAN, AND ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING

The State of Minnesota is developing its annual Action Plan for 2018 which includes a substantial amendment to the 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan, as well as an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, and encourages citizens to participate in their development.

Annually the State submits an Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order to receive federal housing and community development funding via the Community Development Block Grant run by DEED; HOME Investment Partnerships, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS programs, and the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) run by Minnesota Housing; and the Emergency Solutions Grant, run by DHS. The State's 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan examines the housing and community development needs of the state, and sets priorities for allocating HUD funds. The annual Action Plan directs how the state will meet current and future needs and priorities in the coming year.

Through the Action Plan, the state certifies to affirmatively further fair housing. As part of that certification, the state is required to conduct an Analysis of Impediments to Fair

Housing. The draft Analysis of Impediments will be active through the remaining consolidated plan five year cycle (2017-2021).

Process to Comment on the Drafts

A public hearing for review and comment on the draft Action Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing will be held on **Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Rondo Library at Saint Paul (461 N Dale St)**. This public hearing will be for review and comment on the draft Action Plan and Analysis of Impediments, which will be available for public review and comment beginning January 31, 2018. The draft Action Plan and Analysis of Impediments will be available on agency websites at <http://www.mnhousing.gov> and <http://mn.gov/deed/government/financial-assistance/community-funding/> and in state depositories identified in the Citizen Participation Plan which may be found on the same websites. Hard copies of the Action Plan or Analysis of Impediments can be obtained by calling Minnesota Housing, 1-800-657-3769, or (651) 296-7608, or TTY (651) 297-2361.

Comments on the draft Action Plan and Analysis of Impediments will be accepted until close of business **March 2, 2018**. Written public comments should be submitted to: Action Plan, Attn: **Action Plan; Minnesota Housing, 400 Wabasha St N, Suite 400, Saint Paul, MN 55102; or by email to mn.housing@state.mn.us**. To ensure consideration of your comments, type “Action Plan/AI” in the subject line of your e-mail.

The State will consider any comments from individuals or groups received in writing or at public hearings. A summary of the written and public hearing comments on the Action Plan and the State’s responses will be included in the final Action Plan. The Action Plan and substantial amendment will be submitted to HUD after HUD notifies the State of its fiscal year

2018 allocations. Likewise, a summary of written and public hearing comments on the Analysis of Impediments will be included in the final Analysis of Impediments publication.

DRAFT

Executive Summary

AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

Since the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has required consolidating the planning, application, reporting, and citizen participation processes for the formula grant programs: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME), National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). The new single-planning process, termed the Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development, was intended to more comprehensively fulfill three basic goals: to offer decent housing, to provide a suitable living environment, and to expand economic opportunities. According to HUD, the Consolidated Plan is designed to be a collaborative process whereby a community establishes a unified vision for housing and community development actions. It offers entitlement communities the opportunity to shape these housing and community development programs into effective, coordinated housing and community development strategies. It also allows for strategic planning and citizen participation to occur in a comprehensive context, thereby reducing duplication of effort. As the lead agency for the Consolidated Plan for the State of Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), in coordination with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (Minnesota Housing), and the Department of Human Services (DHS), hereby follows HUD's guidelines for citizen and community involvement. Furthermore, these agencies are responsible for overseeing these citizen participation requirements, those that accompany the Consolidated Plan and the CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, NHTF, and ESG programs, as well as those that complement the DEED planning processes already at work in the state.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

The strategies of the programs administered by the DEED, Minnesota Housing, and DHS are to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities for the state's low- and moderate-income residents. The agencies strive to accomplish these strategies by maximizing and effectively utilizing all available funding resources to conduct housing and community development activities that will serve the economically disadvantaged residents of the state. By addressing needs and creating opportunities at the individual and local government levels, the agencies hope to improve the quality of life for all residents of the state. These strategies are further explained as follows:

- Providing decent housing requires helping homeless persons obtain appropriate housing and assisting those at risk of homelessness, preserving the affordable housing stock, increasing availability of permanent housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income persons without discrimination, and increasing the supply of supportive housing.
- Providing a suitable living environment entails improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods, increasing access to quality facilities and services, and reducing the isolation of income groups within an area through integration of low-income housing opportunities.
- Expanding economic opportunities involves creating jobs that are accessible to low and moderate income persons, making mortgage financing available for low- and moderate-income persons at reasonable rates, providing access to credit for development activities that promote long-term economic and social viability of the community, and empowering low-income persons to achieve.

3. Evaluation of past performance

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

The State's evaluation of its past performance has been completed in a thorough Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). This document states the objectives and outcomes identified in the State's last Plan for 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan and includes an evaluation of past performance through measurable goals and objectives compared to actual performance. The past year Consolidated Plan and CAPER can be found at:

<http://mn.gov/deed/government/financialassistance/community-funding/small-cities.jsp> and
<http://www.mnhousing.gov>

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

As part of the consolidated planning process, the lead agency must consult with a wide variety of organizations in order to gain understanding of the housing and community development stage. This Consolidated Plan represents a collective effort from a broad array of entities in Minnesota including private, non-profit and public organizations, non-entitled communities, county governments, Continuum of Care organizations, and various other state agencies. The public participation process included focus groups, outreach committees, public input sessions, and a Housing and Community Development Needs Surveys. Public comment narratives will be attached once received as an appendix in Citizens Participation Comments.

5. Summary of public comments

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them

7. Summary

The 2018 Action Plan has the following goals. These goals will use HOME, ESG, HOPWA, NHTF and CDBG funds.

- **Provide Decent Affordable Housing – DEED**
Fund housing rehabilitation activities for low to moderate income homeowner and rental households through CDBG funds, DEED
- **Enhance Affordable Housing Opportunities - Minnesota Housing**
Fund housing activities for low-to-moderate income households, including rehabilitation and new construction of rental housing using HOME and NHTF funds.
- **Promote Economic Development - DEED**
Encourage robust economic growth through the development and retention of businesses and jobs throughout the State
- **Facilitate Housing and Service for the Homeless - Minnesota Housing and Department of Human Services**
Provide funds for service providers to meet the various housing and service needs of the homeless population in Minnesota
- **Provide Funds for Special-Needs Housing and Services - Minnesota Housing**
Continue to fund programs that provide housing and services to special needs populations, including those with HIV/AIDS
- **Address Public Facility and Infrastructure Needs - DEED**
Address community needs through improvements to public facilities and infrastructure

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies - 91.300(b)

1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

The following are the agencies/entities responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role		Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency		MINNESOTA	
CDBG Administrator	MINNESOTA		Department of Employment and Economic Development
HOPWA Administrator	MINNESOTA		Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
HOME Administrator	MINNESOTA		Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
ESG Administrator	MINNESOTA		Department of Human Services
HOPWA-C Administrator	MINNESOTA		Minnesota Housing Finance Agency

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

Three state agencies administer HUD CPD programs, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Minnesota Department of Human Services, and the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development is the lead agency and primary point of public contact on the consolidated plan.

AP-10 Consultation - 91.110, 91.300(b); 91.315(l)

1. Introduction

As part of the consolidated planning process, the lead Agency, DEED, along with Minnesota Housing and DHS, must consult with a wide variety of organizations in order to gain understanding of housing and community development needs.

Provide a concise summary of the state's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies

This plan, as part of the 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan, represents a collective effort from a broad array of entities in Minnesota, ranging from advocacy groups for the disabled to economic development organizations. Private, nonprofit, and public organizations, including mayors, county supervisors, county commissioners, county managers, planning and development district administrators, councils of government, persons interested in the CDBG program, persons interested in the HOME or National Housing Trust Fund programs, persons associated with Continuum of Care organizations, and the Minnesota Department of Health were contacted through email correspondence, telephone interviews, and face-to-face interactions. These persons were solicited to discuss housing and community development needs in Minnesota, including the ranking of those needs and activities that DEED, Minnesota Housing, and DHS might consider to better address needs throughout the state. Further, individuals were asked to provide additional insight into prospective barriers and constraints regarding housing and community development needs in Minnesota.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness

The DHS hosts a monthly meeting of all Continuum of Care Coordinators. Also in attendance are staff from various state administered homelessness programs as well as HUD CPD staff. Issues such as accessing HUD Super NOFA funding, the allocation of program resources, development of common assessment tools, performance measurement and HMIS as these issues relate to the CoC's are discussed at these meetings.

Representatives from the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH) subcommittee on Continuum of Care Planning send representatives to all Continuum of Care regional meetings.

As part of the DHS and Minnesota Housing's participation in the MICH, staff are working with CoCs around the state to implement the State's Heading Home plan, which includes many goals related to the needs of chronic homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and unaccompanied youth. These goals include but are not limited to ending veteran homelessness, eliminating transitions to homelessness in youth and adult systems of care, and connecting homeless and highly-mobile families with students to rental assistance and other resources to improve housing stability.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the State in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS

The DHS hosts a monthly meeting of all Continuum of Care Coordinators. Also in attendance are staff from various state administered homelessness programs as well as HUD CPD staff. Issues such as accessing HUD Super NOFA funding, the allocation of program resources, development of common assessment tools, performance measurement and HMIS as these issues relate to the CoC's are discussed at these meetings.

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2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the states consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Minnesota Housing
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Other government - State
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The state recipient of HOME, NHTF, and HOPWA allocates other housing resources for a range of affordable housing activities, supportive housing through homeownership. The agency coordinates the HUD CPD resources with state funding programs and Low Income Housing Tax Credits.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	USDA-Rural Development
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Other government - Federal
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Through regional forums, Minnesota Housing and DEED participate with USDA Rural Development and the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund in gathering community inputs on housing needs across the state, particularly in rural communities. In addition, USDA Rural Development local office is often consulted in evaluation of homeownership lending activities to identify and address lending gaps in rural areas.
3	Agency/Group/Organization	Greater MN Housing Fund (GMHF)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Regional organization Community Development Financial Institution

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Through regional forums, Minnesota Housing and DEED participate with USDA Rural Development and the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund in gathering community inputs on housing needs across the state, particularly in rural communities. Minnesota Housing partners with GMHF in particular to preserve naturally occurring affordable housing by coordinating with and participating in the NOAH fund.
4	Agency/Group/Organization	MN Community Action Association
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Education Services-Employment Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Throughout the year, the umbrella community action group as well as individual community action agencies to coordinate with CAP programs such as housing construction, rehabilitation and assistance, energy assistance, and financial literacy education. Regular consultations with CAP agencies help state agencies direct resources in ways that are consistent with other CAP programming.
5	Agency/Group/Organization	League of Minnesota Cities
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Other government - Local Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development

	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Regular consultation with the League of Minnesota Cities helps to identify local jurisdictions for further discussions. This year, the following local governments are among consulted to help identify specific local housing needs: Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Red Wing, Lake City, and Thief River Falls. Discussions with these local jurisdictions help to coordinate resources (federal, state and philanthropic) to meet local needs.
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Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting:

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness	Minnesota has a statewide plan to end homelessness which includes all CoCs in the state. This plan is coordinated by the MICH, in which staff from 11 state agencies participate. The MN Plan to End Homelessness encompasses all of the affordable housing and suitable living environment goals of the Strategic Plan. In addition, DHS and other state agency staff regularly attend local and regional CoC and FHPAP planning meetings to give and receive input to inform the Strategic Plan.
Olmstead Plan	Olmstead Implementation Office	The Olmstead Plan is a broad series of key activities our state must accomplish to ensure people with disabilities are living, learning, working, and enjoying life in the most integrated setting. The Plan will help achieve a better Minnesota for all Minnesotans, because it will help Minnesotans with disabilities have the opportunity, both now and in the future to live close to family and friends, live more independently, and participate in community life.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Affordable Housing Plan	Minnesota Housing	Minnesota Housing is a strategic plan guides an annual affordable housing plan, essentially a work plan for the agency. In 2018, the agency continues to support core activities that include financing affordable rental opportunities, preserving existing housing stock (with a strategic priority to preserve housing with federal project-based rent assistance), and provide housing resources to support community and economic development. In addition, the agency has a strategic priority to prevent and end homelessness. All of these priorities and goals align with the strategic plan as part of the consolidated planning process.
Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing	Minnesota Housing	An updated state of Minnesota Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice is in process. The draft AI will be available for public comment along with the Annual Action Plan for 2018 and is expected to be effective through the duration of the Consolidated Plan five year period (through 2021).The goals of the strategic plan informed the development of the AI through identification of affordable rental housing needs and barriers.

Table 3 - Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative

DHS works closely with other ESG jurisdictions within the State to ensure consistency and coordination wherever possible. The State periodically meets with local units of government who are also administering ESG funding, providing a venue for close coordination and communication, as well as peer to peer technical assistance. Local jurisdictions also participate in the State's ESG funding review process each biennium.

AP-12 Participation - 91.115, 91.300(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

The Consolidated Planning process has been designed to enumerate Minnesota's overall strategy for coordinating federal and other housing and community development resources to provide decent housing, establish and maintain a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities, particularly for low- and moderate-income persons. Interested groups and individuals have also been encouraged to provide input into all aspects of Minnesota's Consolidated Planning activities, from assessing needs to setting priorities through performance evaluation. The public involvement process was initiated with the Citizen Participation Plan (CPP). The objectives of the CPP are to ensure that the citizens of Minnesota, particularly persons of low- and moderate-income, persons living in slum and blight areas, units of local government, housing agencies, and other interested parties, are provided with the opportunity to participate in the planning process and preparation of the Consolidated Plan, including amendments to the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Performance Report. The CPP is attached in admin tab.

The State has aimed to broaden public participation through numerous opportunities for citizens to contribute information, ideas, and opinions about ways to improve Minnesota's neighborhoods, promote housing affordability and enhance the delivery of public services to local residents. These include a broad-based, statewide survey of interested citizens and stakeholders pertaining to Minnesota's housing and community development needs; meetings with agency representatives and stakeholders during focus group sessions to address rental, homeowner, and homeless needs; and regional forums held across the state to gather input from Minnesota citizens and interested parties. Other steps the State took to encourage widespread participation in the planning process included publishing notices in a variety of media formats, and direct solicitation of stakeholders and their interest groups.

The State of Minnesota continues to be committed to keeping all interested groups and individuals informed of each phase of the Consolidated Planning process and of activities being proposed or undertaken under HUD formula grant programs. DEED, Minnesota Housing, and DHS published the draft Consolidated Plan for public review in a manner that afforded citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine its contents and submit comments. The draft Plan included the amount of assistance the state agencies expect to receive and the range of activities that may be undertaken, including the estimated amount that will benefit persons of low- and moderate-income.

The availability of a completed draft Plan, how to access a copy of it, and information on public hearings was published in the State Register on January 29, 2018, and emailed by Minnesota Housing and DEED to 4,400 individual and organization stakeholders. The notices described the purpose of the Plan and directed readers to where the Plan and directions on how to submit comment on needs, the draft action plan, and the CAPER was available. Documentation of this information is included in unique appendices.

DEED presented ideas to its participants during input meetings throughout the state as part of the initial Consolidated Plan.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	[TBD]	[TBD]	[TBD]	
2	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	[TBD]	[TBD]	[TBD]	
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	A regional housing dialogue was conducted in Bemidji on October 26 and included 86 participants including local government, business and civic leaders.			

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.320(c)(1,2)

Introduction

The following section describes the annual allocation the State of Minnesota expects to receive for program year 2018 and for the remainder of the Consolidated Plan period 2017-2021.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	16,713,811	150,000	10,000,000	26,863,811	45,000,000	Department of Employment and Economic Development(DEED)

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	5,850,000	1,000,000	0	6,850,000	15,000,000	Minnesota Housing(MH)(acquisition, multifamily rental new construction and rehab only)

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOPWA	public - federal	Permanent housing in facilities Permanent housing placement Short term or transitional housing facilities STRMU Supportive services TBRA	175,200	0	0	175,200	700,000	MH(STRMU only)

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	2,060,135	0	0	2,060,135	0	MN Dept. of Human Services(DHS)

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HTF	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Homebuyer assistance Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership	3,120,000	0	0	3,120,000	9,000,000	MH(acquisition, multifamily rental new construction and rehab only)

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

The HOME match requirement is met through tenant-based rental assistance from Minnesota Housing's Bridges program, which provides a rent subsidy for up to five years to persons with mental illness until they can obtain a permanent rent subsidy; and the State Housing Trust Fund program. The CDBG match will be a mix of private, local, and state resources such as loans from local banks, weatherization funds, and Minnesota Housing rehabilitation loans. CDBG-Economic Development match is through local initiatives, local banks, and owner equity.

ESG match requirements are met two ways depending on the funded activity. For Emergency Shelter programs, DHS has required its sub-recipients to provide eligible matching funds at the sub-recipient level for each dollar requested in ESG funding. To ensure compliance with the requirement, DHS has required identification of matching funds in all sub-recipient contracts as well as a separate ESG Matching certification form that follows requirements outlined in the ESG Regulations. Because of the diverse nature of local homelessness program funding, it is not

possible to summarize at the State level the exact types and amounts of each funding source, but the most common sources of matching funds include state Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Funds (FHPAP), state and HUD Transitional Housing Program funds (for scattered-site programs), Minnesota Community Action Grants, Private Foundations and Individual Donations.

For the ESG Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing providers, DHS has chosen to match ESG funding with state-appropriated Emergency Services Program (ESP), which is entirely used to fund emergency shelter (an eligible activity under ESG match regulations) Providers receiving these ESP funds certify they will be used in compliance with the ESG Regulations and are aware they cannot be used to meet any other match requirements.

Minnesota Housing's HOME and NHTF funds will leverage other agency, private, and low income housing tax credit investment. The NHTF funds will be made available through the agency's Consolidated RFP, which consolidates and coordinates multiple housing resources into one application process. Funding partners include the Metropolitan Council, Department and Employment and Economic Development, Family Housing Fund and Greater Minnesota Housing Fund. Financing opportunities that could be leveraged with NHTF funds include several nonfederal sources through the State of Minnesota:

- Amortizing first mortgages through the State of Minnesota's Low and Moderate Income Rental Program
- Deferred loans through State of Minnesota funded Economic Development and Housing Challenge program
- Deferred loans through the State of Minnesota funded Preservation Affordable Rental Investment Fund
- Housing Investment Bonds through the State of Minnesota

One of Minnesota Housing's selection priorities incorporate a project's ability to leverage other resources: efficient use of scarce resources and leverage.

CDBG prior year resources include the 15% set-aside for the federal Minnesota Investment Fund program from the previous allocation, which is roughly \$2.5 million. The additional funds include reverted grant funds from other small cities grant awards.

If appropriate, describe publically owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan

The State will not use state-owned land to address the needs identified in the plan, though CDBG recipients may use locally-owned land.

Discussion

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives – 91.320(c)(3)&(e)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Provide Decent Affordable housing-DEED	2017	2021		Non-Entitlement	Low-Moderate Income Renter/Owner Situations	CDBG: \$9,562,500	Rental units rehabilitated: 100 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 300 Household Housing Unit
2	Enhance Affordable Housing Opportunities-MH	2017	2021	Affordable Housing	Statewide	Low-Moderate Income Renter/Owner Situations	HOME: \$6,850,300 HTF: \$3,120,000	Rental units constructed: 100 Household Housing Unit Rental units rehabilitated: 100 Household Housing Unit
3	Promote Economic Development	2017	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	Non-Entitlement	Economic Opportunities	CDBG: \$1,312,500	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation: 75 Business Jobs created/retained: 30 Jobs Businesses assisted: 5 Businesses Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Facilitate Housing and Service for the Homeless	2017	2021	Homeless	Statewide	Homelessness	ESG: \$2,060,135	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 381 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 10252 Persons Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 91 Persons Assisted
5	Provide Funds for Special-Needs Housing & Services	2017	2021	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Statewide	Human Services	HOPWA: \$172,000	Homelessness Prevention: 180 Persons Assisted
6	Address Public Facility-Infrastructure Needs-DEED	2017	2021	Non-Housing Community Development	Non-Entitlement	Public Facilities and Infrastructure	CDBG: \$4,125,033	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 440 Persons Assisted Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 700 Households Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Provide Decent Affordable housing-DEED
	Goal Description	

2	Goal Name	Enhance Affordable Housing Opportunities-MH
	Goal Description	<i>Fund housing activities for low-to-moderate income renter households, including rehabilitation and new construction. HOME resources will be used to assist rental units for low-to-moderate income households, while National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) resources will be used to assist rental units for extremely low income households.</i>
3	Goal Name	Promote Economic Development
	Goal Description	<i>Encourage robust economic growth through the development and retention of businesses and jobs throughout the State. \$1,312,500 in CDBG funds and \$2,483,306 in CDBG-ED funds will be used.</i>
4	Goal Name	Facilitate Housing and Service for the Homeless
	Goal Description	<i>Provide funds for service providers to meet the various housing and service needs of the homeless population in Minnesota. For Goal Outcome Indicator #13 (Homeless Person Overnight Shelter) the projected number of persons served includes all programs using ESG and ESG-match funds.</i>
5	Goal Name	Provide Funds for Special-Needs Housing & Services
	Goal Description	<i>Continue to fund programs that provide housing and services to special needs populations, including those with HIV/AIDS</i>
6	Goal Name	Address Public Facility- Infrastructure Needs-DEED
	Goal Description	<i>Address community needs through improvements to public facilities and infrastructure</i>

AP-25 Allocation Priorities – 91.320(d)

Introduction:

The following section describes the allocation priorities for FY 2017.

Funding Allocation Priorities

	Provide Decent Affordable housing-DEED (%)	Enhance Affordable Housing Opportunities-MH (%)	Promote Economic Development (%)	Facilitate Housing and Service for the Homeless (%)	Provide Funds for Special-Needs Housing & Services (%)	Address Public Facility-Infrastructure Needs-DEED (%)	Total (%)
CDBG	64	0	9	0	0	27	100
HOME	0	100	0	0	0	0	100
HOPWA	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
ESG	0	0	0	92	8	0	100

Table 7 – Funding Allocation Priorities

Reason for Allocation Priorities

Percentages include administration costs. Allocation priorities are based on needs in market study, needs assessment and public input.

CDBG: CDBG spending will be split between affordable housing, economic development and public facilities and infrastructure. These spending priorities have been established through the planning process of where the most need is, as well as the capacity to make an impact on those in need in the State of Minnesota. The amount spent on each category is determined both by past performance and the current ability to meet housing and community development needs in the State. Economic Development funds will be utilized to support the Minnesota Investment Fund Program by providing gap financing to businesses creating jobs that benefit LMI workers.

HOPWA: Federal regulations dictate both the geography in which HOPWA funds may be used and the beneficiaries. Because only 15% of persons living with HIV/AIDS live in counties outside the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area and most are already housed, preventing homelessness is a more cost-effective approach than housing development or tenant-based rent assistance.

NHTF: National Housing Trust Funds will be directed towards efforts to enhance affordable housing opportunities through new construction and rehabilitation.

HOME: Many federally assisted and naturally affordable housing developments need rehabilitation to preserve their federal rent subsidy or affordability of their units. There is a growing need for affordable rental housing. All of the HOME funds will be directed toward enhancing the affordable housing opportunities for low to moderate income households throughout the State.

ESG: The total funds for ESG will be spent on services and housing, including homelessness prevention and emergency shelter, for homeless households and households at-risk of homelessness in the State.

How will the proposed distribution of funds will address the priority needs and specific objectives described in the Consolidated Plan?

For CDBG, the distribution of funds address the high needs of low to moderate income households, economic opportunities, and public facilities and infrastructure.

For HOME and NHTF, the Consolidated Plan ranks the low to moderate income households as a high need. There is a high need for rental and owner rehabilitation. Funds will be targeted to projects that will serve low to moderate income households in the State.

Minnesota uses its HOPWA resources to maintain persons with HIV/AIDS in their current housing by providing emergency assistance because that is the most pressing need identified for this population.

As outlined in the Consolidated Plan, ESG funds will be used to meet the priority needs of providing emergency shelter, prevention and rapid re-housing to persons at-risk of, and experiencing, homelessness.

AP-30 Methods of Distribution – 91.320(d)&(k)

Introduction:

Formula grant funds from the CDBG, HOME, NHTF, HOPWA, and ESG programs may be directed to their highest and best use first, within each set of program guidelines, given the funding of all housing and community development programs throughout Minnesota.

Still, the housing and community development needs statewide far exceed the available resources to address them. Therefore, it is necessary to consider needs by type of activity and geography in order to ensure the greatest impact with limited resources. Diversity across the state means that different areas have different housing and community development needs that are best addressed through different types of investment activities. Such activities are guided by selected ranking criteria. Minnesota's experience with these programs shows that these resources are indeed distributed throughout the state. The entire state will be served by NHTF, HOME and ESG funds, and non-entitlement areas will be served by CDBG and HOPWA funds.

As of 1/1/2018, the State has agreed to accept the City of North Mankato back into non-entitlement status by request of the local Minneapolis HUD office. This includes any Program Income and Revolving Loan Fund balances.

Distribution Methods

Table 8 - Distribution Methods by State Program

1	State Program Name:	DEED:Small Cities Development Program and ED
	Funding Sources:	CDBG

<p>Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.</p>	<p>DEED intends to provide SCDP funds in accordance to the following approximate allocations: 30% for Single Purpose and 55% for Comprehensive Applications. The remaining 15% allocation is designated for DEED's federal economic development set-aside. If there is not a need from the unit administering federal economic set-aside funds, these funds will go towards SCDP projects, which would be approved by the Commissioner of DEED. Allocation percentages may be modified by the Commissioner of DEED if it is determined that there is a shortage of fundable applications in any category, as allowed in State Rules. DEED does not distribute funds based on specific geographic area. Applications are competitive in nature. Grants are typically 30 month projects but may longer depending on various factors including but not limited to timing of HUD release of funds and disasters affecting the project area. 20% of fund are allocated towards administration with a maximum of 15% of projects cost to grantees and 5% for state staff.</p> <p>MOD calculation: The State subtracts from the CDBG Award the amount it sets aside for State Administration (\$100,000 + 3% of the CDBG Award (2% for Administration and 1% Administration for Technical Assistance which does not require a state match)) to determine the amount available for CDBG grants. The 1% Administration for Technical Assistance is to support state staff to provide with application and implementation trainings and workshops to grantees. Lastly, added to the current SCDP allocation are funds reverted from grantees who did not spend their total grants awarded to them in previous fiscal years. In addition, grantees must bring forward any program income they have and spend it first before any new CDBG award funds will be released from DEED.</p> <p>In the event of a disaster, the State of Minnesota reverses the right to use funds for any eligible CDBG activity to an eligible grantee. Awarded applicants who have Program Income must expend before any new CDBG funds will be disbursed as per grantees approved Program Income Plan.</p>
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<p>Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.</p>	<p>Projects are evaluated based on an assessment of need, impact and capacity of the applicant to complete the project in a timely manner. SCDP Funds: Up to 240 of the points will be awarded based on evaluation of the proposed project to serve low and moderate income persons in relation to housing, alleviate slum and blight in commercial areas, and/or address public facility activities. Up to 180 points will be awarded based on need, impact, and capacity for the proposed project. Need-up to 90 points given for the following: Benefit to low and moderate income persons and are either substandard or pose a threat to the health or safety of the occupants; An inadequate supply of affordable housing for low or moderate income persons; or other documented condition that gives evidence of the need for improvement or additional units to the housing stock serving low and moderate income persons. Impact- up to 90 points given for the following: An evaluation of the extent to which the proposed project will eliminate housing deficiencies or improve public facilities services serving low and moderate income persons. Evaluation of administrative capacity to complete the activity in a timely manner. The application must include applicant's history in administering SCDP funds and/or other programs similar programs. Prior SCDP performance will be taken into consideration. Cost-Effectiveness- up to 30 points given for the following: An evaluation of the extent to which the proposed project will make cost-effective use of grant funds, funds from other public and private sources. Per household benefit is reasonable. Project benefits existing, rather than future, population, unless growth is beyond applicant's control. State Demographics-Up to 30 points based on: The number of poverty-persons in the area under the applicant's jurisdiction. The percentage of persons residing in the area under the applicant's jurisdiction. The per capita assessed valuation of the area under the jurisdiction of the applicant, such that points are awarded in inverse relationship to the applicant's per capita assessed valuation.</p> <p>ED: Funds disbursed via the Minnesota Investment Fund to support economic development activities are selected based upon potential job creation and retention, project financial viability and community need factors. In more detail, projects are scored based upon the proposed project's ability to improve local economic stability, unemployment rate and median income ratios, projected job creation & retention, wage and tax base impact, financial feasibility, and public and private investment ratios.</p>
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<p>If only summary criteria were described, how can potential applicants access application manuals or other state publications describing the application criteria? (CDBG only)</p>	<p>Selection Criteria for the Minnesota Investment Fund is guided by Minnesota Statutes 116J.8731 which are available on the MN Office of the Revisor of Statutes web page. Application information for Minnesota Investment Fund and CDBG is available on the State of MN Department of Employment and Economic Development's website, www.mn.gov/deed.</p>
<p>Describe the process for awarding funds to state recipients and how the state will make its allocation available to units of general local government, and non-profit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations. (ESG only)</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>Identify the method of selecting project sponsors (including providing full access to grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations). (HOPWA only)</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

<p>Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.</p>	<p>All funds must be used for economic development related activities undertaken by a Minnesota business. The State allocates the amount available for CDBG grants to three categories based on State Rules. 15% for Economic Development Set-Aside, 55% for SCDP Comprehensive Grants, and 30% for SCDP Single Purpose Grants. The Business Finance Unit administers the Economic Development Set-Aside Grant Program and the Community Assistance Unit administers the Small Cities Development Program. No more than 20% of a CDBG allocation can be spent towards general administration. This includes general administration funds expended by DEED along with funds awarded and expended by grantees.</p>
<p>Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.</p>	<p>The maximum MIF grant size is \$1,000,000 and is determined by financing need, project leverage capacity and number of jobs to be created or retained. The maximum SCDP funds for Single Purpose Application - owner occupied housing rehab and/or rental rehab is \$600,000. The maximum SCDP funds for Comprehensive Application - a combination of at least two interrelated activities; housing, public facility or commercial activity is \$1.4 million. Each activity within the comprehensive application is limited to a maximum of \$600,000 which includes administrative dollars.</p>
<p>What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?</p>	<p>Number of LMI jobs created or retained and private leverage achieved. SCDP funds will benefit low and moderate income (LMI) persons/households, low and moderate area (LMA), prevent or eliminate slum and blight conditions and alleviate urgent community development needs caused by condition that pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.</p>

2	State Program Name:	Minnesota Emergency Solutions Grant Program
	Funding Sources:	ESG
	Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.	Emergency Solutions Grant Program.
	Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.	For more detail on criteria, see "AP-30 ESG Methods of Distribution" Attachment under AP-90 Attachments.
	If only summary criteria were described, how can potential applicants access application manuals or other state publications describing the application criteria? (CDBG only)	Announcement of the Request For Proposals for the ESG program will be distributed to all Department of Human Services - Office of Economic Opportunity funded housing agencies, all Continuum of Care committees, all members of the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development local office. The RFP will be posted on the Minnesota Department of Human Services website and published in the State Register.

<p>Describe the process for awarding funds to state recipients and how the state will make its allocation available to units of general local government, and non-profit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations. (ESG only)</p>	<p>2018 ESG funds will be awarded through a two-year competitive Request For Proposals. Eligible applicants will include non-profit 501 (c) (3) organizations and local units of government. Many of non-profits are community and/or faith based.</p> <p>For more detail, see "AP-30 ESG Methods of Distribution" attachment under AP-90 Attachments.</p>
<p>Identify the method of selecting project sponsors (including providing full access to grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations). (HOPWA only)</p>	<p>Not Applicable.</p>
<p>Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.</p>	<p>The State of Minnesota will use the maximum amount of funding allowable for shelter activities, which in FFY2017 was 60 percent of the State's estimated allocation or \$1,236,081.</p> <p>The State of Minnesota and its sub-recipients will use the maximum allowed amount for ESG Administration. A portion of these funds are shared with sub-recipients to assist in administration of their ESG programs. Additional ESG funds above the allowable shelter and administration limits will be used exclusively for prevention and rapid re-housing activities.</p>

	Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.	The State of Minnesota does not have grant limits in awarding ESG funds. However, because DHS attempts to achieve statewide distribution with emergency shelter and re-housing funds, sizes of grant awards may be limited by available funds and the number of requests. There are no threshold factors for funding other than those identified in "AP-30 ESG Methods of Distribution" attachment under AP-90 Attachments, which is limited to the timely and complete submission of application materials by the deadline.
	What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?	<p>For the upcoming program year, we anticipate that ESG and ESG-matching funds will be used to provide 10,252 persons experiencing homelessness with adequate emergency shelter and that 472 households who are either at-risk of, or currently experiencing homelessness, will be moved to permanent housing.</p> <p>By funding a continuum of activities with ESG, we address the needs of homeless persons for both crisis and short or medium-term housing, including emergency shelter, prevention (re-housing those at-risk of homelessness) and rapid re-housing (for those already homeless by HUD's definition). We are the only State agency providing funding for emergency shelter activities, which meets a critical needs gap in rural parts of Minnesota.</p>
3	State Program Name:	Minnesota Housing Nation Housing Trust Fund
	Funding Sources:	HTF

<p>Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.</p>	<p>Minnesota will not allocate funds to sub grantees for their distribution to owners/developers. Instead, NHTF funds will be distributed directly to owner/developers of affordable housing via Minnesota Housing’s annual Consolidated Request for Proposals. The NHTF funds will be part of a deferred loan pool of resources which are targeted to address specific and critical needs in rental housing markets, including multiple geographic priority areas: areas of opportunity with access to transit, areas with strong job markets or job growth, economic integration areas with higher incomes, and locations with higher performing schools; rural and tribal areas; and areas with active implementation of planned community development efforts. Minnesota Housing retains the option to offer funds on a pipeline basis in the event qualified proposals are insufficient to use the entire HTF grant.</p>
<p>Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.</p>	<p>There are three main components of the RFP review process that are captured in the attached RFP guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Eligibility and Feasibility: Applicants must satisfy project feasibility and organizational capacity requirements to be considered for funding. Once applications are submitted to the agency, they undergo application and eligibility review to determine if they meet the basic eligibility requirements. The applications then undergo feasibility review by staff underwriters, asset managers, supportive housing officers and architects; including detailed analysis of applicant and organization capacity and priority housing need. • Strategic Priorities: Seven strategic priorities reflect the Agency’s policy goals for funding priorities. Every proposal must satisfy at least one strategic priority to be eligible for funding through the RFP. Minnesota Housing gives priority to proposals that best meet the greatest number of strategic priorities. • Selection Priorities: Among proposals that satisfy the Agency’s strategic priorities, the Agency gives priority in awarding funding to those proposals that best meet the greatest number of selection priorities.

If only summary criteria were described, how can potential applicants access application manuals or other state publications describing the application criteria? (CDBG only)	Not Applicable.
Describe the process for awarding funds to state recipients and how the state will make its allocation available to units of general local government, and non-profit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations. (ESG only)	Not Applicable.
Identify the method of selecting project sponsors (including providing full access to grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations). (HOPWA only)	Not Applicable.

<p>Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.</p>	<p>Minnesota Housing will allocate 10% of its grant to program planning and administration costs; up to one-third for operating cost assistance or funding operating cost assistance reserves; the balance of the grant will provide capital funding for new construction or rehabilitation of NHTF units.</p>
<p>Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.</p>	<p>There are no limits on assistance amounts other than those established in NHTF regulations. Rental applications under the Consolidated RFP must meet the threshold requirements specified in the RFP at that time. The project must meet project feasibility and organizational capacity. Application processes and eligibility criteria for the 2017 Consolidated RFP may be found in the attached RFP guide for 2017.</p>
<p>What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?</p>	<p>Numbers of rental units rehabilitated and preserved or constructed, or provided operating assistance.</p>

4	State Program Name:	Minnesota Housing-HOME
	Funding Sources:	HOME
	Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.	HOME is run as a statewide program that provides deferred loans to help cover financing gaps of rehabilitating or acquiring and rehabilitating qualified affordable rental housing for the purpose of preserving rental subsidies or the affordability of non-federally-assisted housing, or for new construction rental activities. Assistance will generally be in the form of a 0 percent interest rate, 30 year deferred loan due and payable at the end of the term. Minnesota Housing provides the loans directly to the owners. While rehabilitation is a priority for Minnesota Housing, a portion of funds allocated to HARP may be redirected to rental new construction, depending on the types of applications received in response to the consolidated RFP and the relative need for new construction or preservation.

<p>Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.</p>	<p>HOME is administered as a statewide program that provides deferred loans to help cover financing gaps of rehabilitating or acquiring and rehabilitating permanent affordable rental housing with or without long-term, project-based federal subsidies for the purpose of preserving the subsidies or the affordability of housing without federal subsidies, or for new construction rental activities.</p> <p>As with NHTF, described above, HOME funds are primarily provided through the Minnesota Housing Consolidated RFP, which awards assistance from several different sources. Selected applications and developers are evaluated and offered the best matched funding source. If funding is sufficient, the Agency may offer a portion of the HOME funds on a pipeline basis. Projects are evaluated for financial feasibility; developer capacity and fiscal condition are also considered, including a preference for CHDOs. All projects are required to be selected by the Minnesota Housing Board of Directors and obtain approval from the agency's Credit Underwriting committee before loans may be closed.</p> <p>While rental rehabilitation is a priority for Minnesota Housing, a portion of funds allocated to HOME may be redirected to rental new construction, depending on the types of applications received in response to the consolidated RFP and the relative need for new construction or preservation.</p>
<p>If only summary criteria were described, how can potential applicants access application manuals or other state publications describing the application criteria? (CDBG only)</p>	<p>Not Applicable.</p>

<p>Describe the process for awarding funds to state recipients and how the state will make its allocation available to units of general local government, and non-profit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations. (ESG only)</p>	<p>Not Applicable.</p>
<p>Identify the method of selecting project sponsors (including providing full access to grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations). (HOPWA only)</p>	<p>Not Applicable.</p>
<p>Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.</p>	<p>Ninety percent of the program funds will be directed towards programs. Up to 10 percent will be used for administration.</p>

	Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.	<p>There are no limits on assistance amounts other than those established in HOME regulations.</p> <p>Rental applications under the Consolidated RFP must meet the threshold requirements specified in the RFP at that time. The most recent threshold requirements were that the project had to meet the six factors of project feasibility, and the applicant had to meet the five factors of organizational capacity. Application processes and eligibility criteria for the 2016 Consolidated RFP may be found in the attached RFP guide.</p>
	What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?	Numbers of rental units rehabilitated and preserved or constructed.
5	State Program Name:	Minnesota Housing-HOPWA
	Funding Sources:	HOPWA
	Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.	<p>Grant funds are currently awarded to the Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP), which provides the assistance to low-income persons diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, and their families. MAP is the only HOPWA formula project sponsor in Minnesota outside of the metropolitan area, and works in partnership with over 1,000 volunteers in community and outreach efforts. MAP provides a range of support services for persons with HIV, works to prevent the spread of HIV, and collaborates with a number of community organizations.</p>

<p>Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.</p>	<p>With limited funding, renewal of existing grants is a priority.</p>
<p>If only summary criteria were described, how can potential applicants access application manuals or other state publications describing the application criteria? (CDBG only)</p>	<p>Not Applicable.</p>
<p>Describe the process for awarding funds to state recipients and how the state will make its allocation available to units of general local government, and non-profit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations. (ESG only)</p>	<p>Not Applicable.</p>

Identify the method of selecting project sponsors (including providing full access to grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations). (HOPWA only)	<p>Following priorities set by the Minnesota HIV Housing Coalition, which acts as an advisory group to make recommendations for HOPWA funding, renewal funding for ongoing programs receive funding priority. There is a separate renewal process for ongoing HOPWA programs. If funds appropriated exceed the amount necessary to continue those programs at comparable levels, or if priorities change to address changing needs, those funds will be made available in the Minnesota Housing Multifamily Consolidated RFP process for application by all eligible sponsors, including eligible grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations.</p>
Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.	<p>There is only one funding category and all resources are allocated to it.</p>
Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.	<p>With limited funding, renewal of existing grants is a priority.</p>

	<p>What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?</p>	<p>Assisted households remain in their homes.</p>
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Discussion:

AP-35 Projects – (Optional)

Introduction:

As allowable in State Consolidated Plan, projects will be entered after the submission of the 2017-2021 Con Plan.

#	Project Name

Table 9 – Project Information

Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs

AP-38 Project Summary
Project Summary Information

AP-40 Section 108 Loan Guarantee – 91.320(k)(1)(ii)

Will the state help non-entitlement units of general local government to apply for Section 108 loan funds?

No

Available Grant Amounts

N/A

Acceptance process of applications

N/A

AP-45 Community Revitalization Strategies – 91.320(k)(1)(ii)

Will the state allow units of general local government to carry out community revitalization strategies?

No

State's Process and Criteria for approving local government revitalization strategies

N/A

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.320(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the state (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed

HOME, NHTF, and ESG funds are available statewide to eligible entities. For these programs, 100% of funds are available statewide.

CDBG and HOPWA funds are available statewide to eligible non-entitlement entities. For these programs, 100% of funds are available to non-entitlement areas.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Statewide	100
Non-Entitlement	100

Table 10 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

There is no geographic priorities for statewide eligibility to non-entitlements for CDBG. HOME and NHTF funds are available statewide, and also do not have geographic priorities.

For ESG Shelter funding, the application is open to all areas of the state, but priority is given to applications from the balance of state areas (non-ESG entitlement areas). Within ESG entitlement areas, priority is given to those jurisdictions which have chosen to use their ESG resources for emergency shelter but still demonstrate significant unmet need. For ESG Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing funding, funds will only be awarded to applications from non-ESG entitlement areas of the state.

Discussion

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 24 CFR 91.320(g)

Introduction:

The term affordable housing that is used in 24 CFR 92.252, 92.254, 93.302, and 93.304 includes several elements that are not requirements of ESG, HOPWA and CDBG. Therefore, the only units that receive federal assistance that can be assured of meeting the standard of "affordable housing" and are described here are HOME and NHTF units.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	200
Special-Needs	0
Total	200

Table 11 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	100
Rehab of Existing Units	100
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	200

Table 12 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion:

For NHTF, the goal is to assist construction or rehabilitation of up to 22 units of rental housing and provide up to 12 units with operating subsidies.

Operating subsidies assume providing assistance for up to fifteen years of the thirty year affordability period. The number may be greater if it is found that less than fifteen years of subsidy is necessary, or less if eligible applications are not received and operating funds are not committed to projects.

Minnesota Housing intends to use operating subsidies only with other NHTF units constructed or rehabilitated.

At an anticipated average per unit capital cost of \$98,000 for supportive housing, Minnesota Housing anticipates completing at least 22 units of housing that is affordable to extremely low income families. Based on Minnesota Housing's experience of providing operating assistance through the State's housing trust fund for supportive housing, Minnesota Housing expects average annual operating cost assistance

to be \$2,700, which will provide operating assistance for up to 12 NHTF units for 15 years. For HOME, the goal is to assist construction or rehabilitation of approximately 150 units, with average assistance of \$50,000 per unit.

With HOME and NHTF combined, it is anticipated the state will support development or rehabilitation of 200 units of housing with FY 18 resources.

AP-60 Public Housing - 24 CFR 91.320(j)

Introduction:

The State does not own or manage public housing.

Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing

\$12 million in funding from the proceeds of General Obligation (GO) bonds is available for the preservation and rehabilitation of public housing units. Applicants will apply to Minnesota Housing by December 20 for selection and distribution during FY 2018.

Eligible uses of funds include but are not limited to:

- Rehabilitation of public housing that addresses health and life safety, accessibility, energy and water efficiency, and critical needs.
- Other improvements that add value to a building and are not of a recurring nature. These improvements must have an intended minimum life expectancy of ten years.
- Expenditures of a capital nature such as design, rehabilitation or major remodeling.

Troubled PHAs are not eligible to apply for these funds and the State has no plans to provide other financial assistance to troubled PHAs.

Actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership

The State does not own or manage public housing and, therefore, has no opportunities to access public housing tenants and has no actions planned.

If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance

The state does not have a specific plan to provide other financial assistance to troubled PHAs

Discussion:

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.320(h)

Introduction

During FY 2018, the State of Minnesota plans on using ESG funds to address homeless needs throughout the State in order to help combat the rate of homelessness in the State. These efforts are coordinated through the Continuum of Care and strives to reduce the amount of homelessness in the State.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including:

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs:

The State of Minnesota provides funding to a number of street outreach, emergency shelters and transitional housing programs across the state with the state and federal funding that has been made available to it. Some of these programs provide outreach to the unsheltered homeless population, but recordkeeping requirements of HUD and other funding sources, as well as limited staffing, make it challenging for most providers to conduct outreach to unsheltered persons. On-site community meals, support services, or community connect events are frequent sources of contact with unsheltered persons and can lead to additional services. The State of Minnesota continues to partner with regional Continuum of Care Committees to develop low-barrier Coordinated Entry systems in all areas of the state which will serve as a focal point for assessing and prioritizing the individual needs of both unsheltered and sheltered persons.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons.

Due to the increasingly limited Federal funds available to emergency shelter and transitional housing providers, the State of Minnesota has maximized available resources to support these activities. On a given night, approximately 4,000 persons are staying in emergency shelters in Minnesota and approximately 3,500 persons are staying in transitional housing. The goal for the 2018 year, assuming that no new resources will become available, is to continue to support these capacities at current levels. While emergency shelter is not a stand-alone solution to homelessness, shelter facilities fill a critical safety gap for families in many communities. This is particularly true during harsh Minnesota winters and in communities where extremely low vacancies or difficult rental markets result in many families exhausting all informal housing options during long episodes waiting for permanent housing

In such communities, youth and families in particular struggle to exit homelessness or emergency shelter quickly as poor or minimal rental histories, high rents and rental deposits, low wages and other barriers make it difficult to obtain market-rate housing. Site-based transitional housing can provide an interim option for those unable to obtain their own lease (even with rapid-rehousing assistance). For others, scattered-site transitional or rapid rehousing (funded with ESG and other sources) provides the

rental assistance and supportive services that many individuals and families need to obtain and maintain private rental housing.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again:

Emergency Solutions Grant Program funds will be targeted to provide prevention and rehousing assistance and services to families, individuals and youth, many of whom are veterans and some of which are chronically homeless, to move these households from homelessness to housing. By targeting these funds to persons that currently reside in shelters (or who would were not for this assistance), the length of time these households are homeless will be reduced. With the provision of supportive services to the rapid rehousing participants, it is expected that permanent housing retention will be improved.

In addition to efforts with ESG funding, the State provides over \$8.5 million dollars per year in Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP), a funding stream which is dedicated to transitioning homeless persons to stable housing, and preventing persons who are at greatest risk from becoming homeless. The FHPAP program has asked its sub-recipients to develop plans for targeting prevention to those households most likely to actually become literally homeless. Other efforts spearheaded by the State's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness are focused on these populations and goals, including a committee of state and local stakeholders who are developing and piloting a comprehensive homeless youth response system that includes child welfare systems and improves outcomes for homeless youth.

Since the creation of the statewide veteran registry in 2014, the state has housed 1,330 homeless veterans and determined that at least 40 of Minnesota's 87 counties have officially ended homelessness (and have systems in place to address any Veteran at-risk of or experiencing homelessness).

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

Discharge planning for persons residing in institutions initially occurs through the services provided by that institution, many of whom are legally required to provide discharge planning to residents leaving their facilities. In addition, the State's 10 Continuum of Care planning groups have developed Plans to

End Homelessness which address coordination with discharge planning processes, including the development Coordinated Entry systems. As a result, local housing providers provide outreach and assessment to persons who may be in need of supportive housing when leaving an institution. Unfortunately many persons leaving these institutions are not initially eligible for HUD-funded programs administered through the Continuum of Care if they were not literally homeless upon entry, or residing in the institution for 90 days or less. In these cases, discharge referrals are made to other types of supportive housing for which the household may qualify.

As noted earlier, in Minnesota the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) program is funded at over \$8.5 million and a significant amount is used for homelessness prevention activities. These funds are available in all 87 Minnesota counties. These resources, as well as the State's Healthy Transitions for Homelessness Prevention (HTHP) funding and Homeless Youth Act funding all assist unaccompanied youth leaving foster care and young parents to become stably housed and avoid homelessness.

For persons or families receiving assistance from state and county mainstream systems, the state's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness has developed and begun implementing Foundational Service Practices (across state agencies) to improve the effectiveness of outcomes for persons experiencing homelessness. These practices adopted by state agencies and programs include but are not limited to knowing the housing status of the people the program is serving, actively reaching out to people experiencing homelessness, limiting requirements for in-person appointments at a particular location or office, assisting with the process of gathering required verifications or documentation, and allowing for multiple methods to communicate about benefits and services.

Discussion

AP-70 HOPWA Goals – 91.320(k)(4)

One year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:	
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family	180
Tenant-based rental assistance	0
Units provided in permanent housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
Total	180

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.320(i)

Introduction:

The State's programs are heavily weighted toward reducing the financial barriers to affordable housing, but the State recognizes that there are non-financial policy barriers to affordable housing as well. The State does not have control over local land use controls, zoning, permitting, or growth policies; but it can, and does, provide incentives in Minnesota Housing's Consolidated Request for Proposals, which DEED also participates in, to alleviate the barriers to affordable housing those local policies may impose. Actions the State has taken in its Consolidated RFP in the past to reduce regulatory and policy barriers and will likely continue are described below.

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

Containing the cost of developing affordable housing is a critical issue in Minnesota. In order to address the growing need for affordable housing, Minnesota Housing must build and preserve as many affordable units as possible with limited resources. Costs of land, materials and labor are outside of what Minnesota Housing can control; however, cost containment is a goal at Minnesota Housing. Costs are evaluated for each project and overall costs of production are also monitored and evaluated over time. Part of our award process includes incentives for projects with lower total development costs. At the same time, Minnesota Housing balances cost containment objectives with other policy goals, such as long-term operating costs.

- Here are some additional examples of how Minnesota Housing reduces other barriers through our process:
- We reduce the barrier of local land use and development policies by prioritizing developments that use land efficiently and minimize the loss of agricultural land and green space,
- We reduce barriers of zoning by prioritizing developments that address the needs of the underserved populations of households of color, single-headed households with minor children, and disabled individuals; developments that are located in opportunity areas.
- We reduce barriers of local application and permit processes by prioritizing developments for which costs are reduced or avoided by regulatory changes, incentives, or waivers by the local governing body, including fast-track permitting and approvals, flexibility in site development standards and zoning requirements, and waiver of permit or impact fees.
- In addition, the State fully supports efforts to reduce NIMBYism, prejudice, and negative attitudes toward affordable and multifamily housing, and will encourage planning decisions by CDBG sub-recipient communities that work to decrease segregation and increase integration of populations. The State will also fully support civic leaders and developers who undertake education in communities statewide. Such education could be targeted, timely, and, in the

context of a possible development, relevant to potentially affected citizens.

Discussion:

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.320(j)

Introduction:

The following sections discuss other actions the state will undertake in FY 2018.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The State has found that the largest obstacle in meeting underserved needs is a lack of funding. The State will continue to fund projects within its scope of funding to serve residents in need in Minnesota and will continue to seek other funding sources to address additional needs in the State.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

Minnesota Housing will continue to give preference points in its RFPs to projects for which considerations are given by local units of government to enhance the affordability of the project. However, Minnesota Housing does not require local consent.

The Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC) and additional state deferred financing are available to owners and investors of affordable rental housing for low-income households to help finance development. The State will mitigate the effects of zoning, land use, and impact fee barriers by giving preference points in its selection process to LIHTC projects that rehabilitate existing housing and to new construction projects that use existing sewer and water lines without substantial extensions. Preference points are also awarded for projects for which development-specific assessments or infrastructure costs are donated or waived or that have been approved for reduced setbacks, reduced parking requirements, decreased road widths, flexibility in site development standards and zoning code and other requirements, preservation of affordable housing, WAC/SAC reductions or fast-track permitting and approvals.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

Exposure to lead-based paint is one of the most significant environmental and public health threats posed to homeowners and renters. Housing units built before 1940 are most likely to contain lead-based paint or coatings. Units built between 1960 and 1978 have a lesser risk in comparison to homes built before 1960. Lead was banned for use in household paint in 1978. In some cases, older units may have few if any lead hazards depending on construction methods, past renovation work, and other factors (HUD grants).

The Environmental Health Division of MDH oversees a comprehensive lead program that includes state-wide medical monitoring, health care, elevated blood investigations, compliance assistance, compliance assurance, and environmental remediation of identified lead hazards. The program is largely funded by federal dollars (HUD and EPA), with additional funding provided by the state's general fund. For more

information see: www.health.state.mn.us/lead

It is the policy of Minnesota Housing to comply with the requirements of 24 CFR part 35 when providing federal assistance. It is also the policy of Minnesota Housing that programs funded with other than federal funds will address lead hazards when the program requires the treatment of other health hazards. Where lead identification and reduction are required by this policy, it will generally be conducted in accordance with the standards of 24 CFR part 35, except that lead hazard abatement shall not be required solely on the basis of the amount of assistance provided, and as the standards may otherwise be modified in procedural manuals and guidelines adopted by Minnesota Housing. For buildings that receive both federal and non-federal funds for the same purpose, the agency shall defer to the federal requirements.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

In Minnesota, there is a statewide network of Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and tribal governments with a common purpose: fighting poverty and its effects in Minnesota communities. The goals of these agencies are to better focus available local, state, private, and federal resources to assist low-income individuals and families to acquire useful skills and knowledge, gain access to new opportunities, and achieve economic self-sufficiency. Each agency assesses needs, establishes priorities, determines strategies to respond to local poverty issues, and delivers a broad range of services and activities to strengthen self-reliance.

The specific programs delivered by the CAAs and tribal governments include:

- Energy Assistance: Provides financial assistance toward energy bills for low-income households;
- Weatherization: Offers weatherization of homes of low-income households to reduce heat loss and increase heating efficiency;
- Financial Literacy programming: Includes Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota, a program which matches low-income households' income with state, federal, and private funding for the purpose of buying a home, furthering education, or starting a business. Other forms of financial literacy programming include tax preparation assistance, budget counseling, and general financial education;
- Food Shelves and various nutrition programs: Provides food for households experiencing emergencies through the network of locally run food shelves;
- Head Start: Assists low-income families break the cycle of poverty by improving the health and social competence of children up to age 5 and pregnant women and by promoting economic self-sufficiency for parents;
- Homeless Programs: Provides assistance to households or individuals who are at-risk of being homeless, who are currently homeless, or who were previously homeless and are receiving follow-up services;
- Housing Construction, Rehabilitation, and Assistance: Develops long-term low-income housing,

including the rehabilitation of unoccupied housing and the provision of rental housing assistance.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The delivery of affordable housing programs authorized by the federal government and Minnesota state legislature is centralized in Minnesota Housing. DEED is the primary administrator and provider of CDBG funds in non-entitlement areas of the state. Minnesota Housing and DHS share the delivery of supportive housing programs for persons experiencing homelessness. DHS is primarily responsible for the delivery of supportive services for persons with special needs because many persons DHS serves are homeless.

Affordable housing assistance in Minnesota depends upon a large network of local lenders, housing authorities, community action agencies, nonprofit and faith-based organizations, homeowner educators and counselors, and local governments throughout the state. The State relies on these entities to administer a number of affordable and supportive housing programs, to identify housing needs at the local level, and to encourage the development of affordable housing.

Recognizing the need to increase both the accessibility and effectiveness of assistance programs for low- and very low-income people, Minnesota Housing has worked to increase the participation of local nonprofits and other nontraditional lenders in delivering its programs. These nontraditional participants provide a greater opportunity to coordinate the delivery of assistance and to better target funds to people with the greatest need.

The State does not have any plans for developing new institutional structures but will continue to participate in the various structures currently in place, supporting the Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO)'s conferences and the Working Together conference. Minnesota Housing coordinates its RFP selections with other funding partners, including DEED. DEED's CDBG grantees coordinate CDBG funding with Minnesota Housing, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, DHS, Rural Development, Department of Health, and Weatherization funding. DHS will continue to participate in the various structures currently in place. The State hosts the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH), through which all state agencies involved in the provision of services to homeless persons meets monthly. Members of the MICH are assigned to all Continuum of Care committees and Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program advisory committees to provide technical assistance and attend meetings of these groups. The State also hosts the Interagency Stabilization Group as well as the Greater Minnesota Preservation Work Group and the Stewardship Council to ensure coordination of funding resources.

The State participates in a number of standing meetings with representatives from local government, nonprofit, and private providers of housing and homelessness services.

For economic development CDBG activities, the state does not have any plans to develop new institutional structures, but will continue to utilize collaborations already in place. DEED partners with

communities, counties, non-profit agencies, the Economic Development Association of Minnesota, Minnesota Bankers Association, and the Council of Development Finance Agencies to ensure that funds are accessible to businesses throughout the state. Working with these partner organizations enables the State of Minnesota to better access underserved communities and address financing needs for local companies throughout the region. Administration of Minnesota Investment Funds dollars is passed through to local government entities with oversight conducted by the state to ensure regulatory compliance.

Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies

The delivery of affordable housing programs authorized by the federal government and Minnesota state legislature is centralized in Minnesota Housing. DEED is the primary administrator and provider of CDBG funds in non-entitlement areas of the state. Minnesota Housing and DHS share the delivery of supportive housing programs for persons experiencing homelessness. DHS is primarily responsible for the delivery of supportive services for persons with special needs because many persons DHS serves are homeless. Coordination between public and private housing and social services primarily occurs at the local or regional level and is supported by the Continuum of Care committees and other regional planning bodies funded, in part, by the State of Minnesota.

Affordable housing assistance in Minnesota depends upon a large network of local lenders, housing authorities, community action agencies, nonprofit and faith-based organizations, homeowner educators and counselors, and local governments throughout the state. The State relies on these entities to administer a number of affordable and supportive housing programs, to identify housing needs at the local level, and to encourage the development of affordable housing.

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Continuum of Care committees and Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program advisory committees to provide technical assistance and attend meetings of these groups. The State also hosts the Interagency Stabilization Group as well as the Greater Minnesota Preservation Work Group and the Stewardship Council to ensure coordination of funding resources.

The State participates in a number of standing meetings with representatives from local government, nonprofit, and private providers of housing and homelessness services.

The state does not have plans to provide financial assistance to troubled PHAs. Troubled and other PHAs are invited to participate in the "Working Together" conference to receive training on topics relevant to their operations. Because the state is not a public housing owner, it does not have plans to encourage residents to become more involved in management of public housing or have a specific outreach plan to public housing residents to encourage homeownership. Public housing residents are eligible to apply for homeownership assistance and receive the same outreach as other potential first-time homebuyers.

Discussion:

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.320(k)(1,2,3)

Introduction:

The following includes program specific details for CDBG, HOME, ESG, and the National Housing Trust Fund (the Annual Action Plan now includes the complete NHTF allocation plan).

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.320(k)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	150,000
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	150,000

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	70.00%

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

Reference 24 CFR 91.320(k)(2)

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is

as follows:

None

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

Not applicable because Minnesota will not use HOME for homebuyer assistance.

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

Not applicable because Minnesota will not use HOME for homebuyer assistance.

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

There are no plans for using HOME to refinance existing debt.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Reference 91.320(k)(3)

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)

All sub-recipients of ESG funding have been required by DHS to establish written standards for the provision of emergency shelter, homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing assistance to homeless persons. The State will not be developing statewide written standards due to the complex needs and characteristics of the 87 counties in which ESG assistance is provided.

DHS has developed a monitoring tool based on the requirements found in 576.400(e)(3) and is conducting reviews of each sub-recipient's Written Standards during the annual monitoring cycle to ensure that they adequately include the elements broadly outlined in 576.400(e)(3). During the monitoring visit, DHS staff will also ensure that the ESG sub-recipients Written Standards are in accordance with the local Continuum of Care's plans for Coordinated Assessment.

DHS has provided grantees with any HUD-issued guidance on what should be included in standards written for prevention and rapid re-housing providers (evaluating eligibility, prioritizing assistance,

determining type, amount and length of assistance) and will continue to ensure sub-recipients are in compliance with this requirement.

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

DHS funds ESG projects in all ten Minnesota CoCs Each Continuum of Care region has fully implemented Coordinated Entry (CE) and is working on refining its CE systems and evaluation. In addition, a statewide policy group was formed to include CE stakeholders including state funders, Continuum of Care Coordinators, and technical assistance providers.

With the recent release of additional CE guidance from HUD, the State's 2018-2019 Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness calls for the formation of a statewide Coordinated Entry body to address CE concerns and conflicts between policymakers and local entities.

The State continues to play an active role in ensuring these systems meet both the requirements and intent of the new HUD regulations. The State will also ensure that ESG sub-recipients are involved in this coordinated assessment to the maximum extent practicable, and that such participation requirements do not unintentionally prevent or discourage the most vulnerable homeless populations from receiving the outreach and emergency shelter they urgently need.

3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

ESG funds are awarded as part of a funding allocation process that combined the grant with available money from four state-funded programs: the Emergency Services Program (ESP), the Homeless Youth Act (HYA), the Transitional Housing Program (THP) and Safe Harbor Shelter and Housing.

The application process for ESG funding is open to programs from all areas of the state. Priority will be given to shelter applications from the balance of State areas (non-entitlement areas), and funds for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities will only be awarded to balance of state areas who do not receive their own ESG allocation.

The allocation of funding to specific programs is based on the overall quality of responses to the evaluation criteria and in accordance with regional and local priorities, as established by each Continuum of Care (CoC) committee. Eligible organizations include local government, nonprofit, community, and faith-based organizations such as shelters, transitional housing programs, and emergency service providers.

Requests For Proposals (RFPs) are sent to all current Office of Economic Opportunity homeless programs grantees, all Continuum of Care Committees throughout the state, and all other interested

parties who have contacted OEO during the course of the year and expressed interest in the homeless program funding. DHS also publishes the RFP in the State Register and posts the RFP on the DHS website.

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

The recipient is a State and therefore not required to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405. However, all sub-recipients are expected to actively work to consult and involve homeless or formerly homeless individuals in their policy development and program operations and are monitored regularly on this topic. In addition, State staff are incentivizing shelter providers to engage residents and former resident in an examination of shelter rules and policies as a part of a state-funded Request for Proposals (RFP) to lower the barriers to shelter.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

The existing performance standards for ESG were developed in recent years during meetings with CoC representatives from around the state, and reflect the basic purpose of ESG shelter, prevention and rapid re-housing funds to a) keep people safely sheltered, b) re-house persons who are homeless, and c) ensure persons are stably housed at program exit. ESG sub-recipient performance reports are sent to each CoC Coordinator, and include information on these goals and sub-recipient performance. This set of outcomes, as well as specific annual goals for these ESG-funded activities, are included in the Outcomes Measures and Performance Standards section of this Plan.

For the current Action Plan Year, the following performance standards will be used for evaluating each FY2018 ESG-funded activity:

Emergency Shelter:

of individuals in households receiving safe, adequate emergency shelter.

Prevention (Re-Housing)/Rapid Re-Housing;

of individuals in households who are stably re-housed.

of individuals in households who remain stably housed at program exit.

In addition to these performance standards, on-going evaluation of ESG sub-recipient performance occurs through DHS Grantee Assessment Tool (Risk Analysis) and its bi-annual monitoring process. This monitoring process places a heavy emphasis on program performance and effectiveness as well as ensuring sub-recipients have the technical assistance they need to be successful.

ESG Monitoring is described in more detail in the following attachment uploaded below: ESG Monitoring. The State will continue to share the outcomes of its monitoring visits with Continuum of

Care Coordinators when there are relevant performance issues identified, and seek mutual problem-solving and assistance from CoC committees when appropriate.

Housing Trust Fund (HTF)
Reference 24 CFR 91.320(k)(5)

1. How will the grantee distribute its HTF funds? Select all that apply:

☒ Applications submitted by eligible recipients

2. If distributing HTF funds through grants to subgrantees, describe the method for distributing HTF funds through grants to subgrantees and how those funds will be made available to state agencies and/or units of general local government. If not distributing funds through grants to subgrantees, enter "N/A".

N/A

3. If distributing HTF funds by selecting applications submitted by eligible recipients,

a. Describe the eligibility requirements for recipients of HTF funds (as defined in 24 CFR § 93.2). If not distributing funds by selecting applications submitted by eligible recipients, enter "N/A".

Eligible entities for NHTF include owners or developers that must satisfy the definition of recipient in 24 C.F.R. 93.2 and be either:

- A for profit entity,
- A 501(C)(3) nonprofit entity (including Community Housing Development Organizations, or CHDO),
- A government unit (excluding the federal government), or
- A religious organization.

The owner must provide evidence of a qualifying interest in the property. Such interest must be recorded and appear in the county records. The minimum qualifying interest is 100 percent fee simple interest that may also be subject to a mortgage.

The owners and development team must not be debarred or excluded from receiving federal assistance prior to selection or entering into a Written Agreement or closing the loan.

Applicants and their development team must undergo an evaluation by Minnesota Housing of their capacity and pass Minnesota Housing underwriting before the applicant qualifies as an eligible recipient. Applicants must have demonstrated experience and capacity to conduct and eligible NHTF activity as evidenced by its ability to own, construct, or rehabilitate, and manage and operate an affordable multifamily rental housing development.

Minnesota Housing underwriting standards require that at least one sponsor must demonstrate acceptable performance (multifamily housing experience) and financial capacity for the scale for the proposed project regardless of guaranty provisions, if any. All loans require a full sponsor credit review for final approval.

Eligible recipients will certify that housing units assisted with the NHTF will comply with NHTF program requirements during the entire period that begins upon selection and ending upon the conclusion of all NHTF funded activities. Recipients must demonstrate the ability and financial capacity to undertake, comply, and manage the eligible activity. Recipients must also demonstrate familiarity with requirements of other Federal, State or local housing programs that may be used in conjunction with NHTF funds to ensure compliance with all applicable requirements and regulations of such programs.

b. Describe the grantee's application requirements for eligible recipients to apply for HTF funds. If not distributing funds by selecting applications submitted by eligible recipients, enter "N/A".

The Consolidated RFP provides a comprehensive system to evaluate a project against eligibility criteria, selection priorities, and capacity of developers and owners. Selections are made after careful and thorough consideration of the project.

The RFP application process begins with the announcement of the Consolidated RFP, and includes outreach and technical assistance to interested applicants. Once applications are submitted to the agency, they undergo application and eligibility review to determine if they pass basic application requirements and selection criteria. The applications then undergo feasibility review by staff underwriters, including detailed analysis of applicant and organizational capacity and priority housing needs. Next, all applications are reviewed together in consistency meetings with staff to ensure consistency in evaluation by individual underwriters. When applications pass this level of review, they undergo a second application review for feasibility, including site visits, if applicable. Once applications are considered feasible, they move on to a selection meeting, which is run through the agency's Mortgage Credit Committee and includes underwriters, managers, and senior leadership. The Mortgage Credit Committee deliberates on feasible applications compared with funding resources available, weighing appropriate uses of those funds and the agency's Strategic Priorities, feasibility, and

organizational capacity, and recommends a package of developments for selection. This recommendation is then brought before Minnesota Housing's Board of Directors for final review and approval.

c. Describe the selection criteria that the grantee will use to select applications submitted by eligible recipients. If not distributing funds by selecting applications submitted by eligible recipients, enter "N/A".

There are three main components of the RFP review process that are captured in the attached RFP guide.

- **Initial Eligibility and Feasibility:** Applicants must satisfy project feasibility and organizational capacity requirements to be considered for funding. Once applications are submitted to the agency, they undergo application and eligibility review to determine if they meet the basic eligibility requirements. The applications then undergo feasibility review by staff underwriters, including detailed analysis of applicant and organization capacity and priority housing need.
- **Strategic Priorities:** Seven strategic priorities reflect the Agency's policy goals for funding priorities. Every proposal must satisfy at least one strategic priority to be eligible for funding through the RFP. Minnesota Housing gives priority to proposals that best meet the greatest number of strategic priorities.
- **Selection Priorities:** Among proposals that satisfy the Agency's strategic priorities, the Agency gives priority in awarding funding to those proposals that best meet the greatest number of selection priorities.

D. Describe the grantee's required priority for funding based on geographic diversity (as defined by the grantee in the consolidated plan). If not distributing funds by selecting applications submitted by eligible recipients, enter "N/A".

Minnesota Housing will accept and consider proposals for NHTF from across the state consistent with the states certification to affirmatively further fair housing. The needs of very low income and extremely low income tenants across Minnesota are a high priority in the Consolidated Plan; however, geographic location of a project may be considered in the context of the project's proximity to certain community features whose presence is a priority for Minnesota Housing.

Of 18 Selection Priorities, six relate specifically to the geographic location of projects, including economic integration areas, workforce housing communities, rural and tribal areas, location efficiency (transit), access to higher performing schools, and community revitalization areas. In sum, these

geographic priority areas support a balanced and diverse distribution of resources across the state

e. Describe the grantee's required priority for funding based on the applicant's ability to obligate HTF funds and undertake eligible activities in a timely manner. If not distributing funds by selecting applications submitted by eligible recipients, enter "N/A".

Applicants must be capable of undertaking and completing NHTF funded activities in a timely manner, consistent with regulatory requirements to meet five year expenditure deadlines. Minnesota Housing expects all project funds to be secured within approximately six months of selection, and the project must close within 18 months from the date of selection. This capability is evaluated during the Consolidated RFP process. Capacity of the entire development team is evaluated, taking into consideration experience with similar projects, financial and staff capacity, status of other projects in the team's development pipeline, and other factors relevant to the role of the entity.

As described in the agency's Multifamily RFP Guide, the following factors will be considered in determining whether an organization has demonstrated sufficient organizational capacity:

- The applicant's purpose and mission;
- The applicant's related housing experience;
- Whether the applicant has successfully completed similar projects or is partnering with other organizations that have successfully completed similar projects;
- Whether the applicant has strong current and expected ongoing capacity to complete the proposed housing as well as other proposals being developed by the organization; and
- Whether the applicant has the capacity to maintain the rental housing long term.

f. Describe the grantee's required priority for funding based on the extent to which the rental project has Federal, State, or local project-based rental assistance so that rents are affordable to extremely low-income families. If not distributing funds by selecting applications submitted by eligible recipients, enter "N/A".

Developments that provide fully executed commitments for project based rental assistance (standard or in conjunction with Long Term Homeless units) at the time of application are given selection priority.

g. Describe the grantee's required priority for funding based on the financial feasibility of the project beyond the required 30-year period. If not distributing funds by selecting applications submitted by eligible recipients, enter "N/A".

New Construction, rehabilitation, and rehabilitation and acquisition rental projects with NHTF have a required affordability period of thirty years. Additional preference will be given to projects that have

commit to affordability for 35 or 40 years. Operating cost assistance reserves may be funded for the amount estimated to be necessary for up to fifteen years from the start of the affordability period.

h. Describe the grantee's required priority for funding based on the merits of the application in meeting the priority housing needs of the grantee (such as housing that is accessible to transit or employment centers, housing that includes green building and sustainable development features, or housing that serves special needs populations). If not distributing funds by selecting applications submitted by eligible recipients, enter "N/A".

Minnesota's Consolidated Plan identifies priority housing needs among extremely low income renters for all renter household types. The total unmet need among extremely low income renters in Minnesota was estimated to be 136,332 units in at the time of the Consolidated Plan publication. NHTF resources will be used exclusively to support units affordable to extremely low income renters (at or below 30% of area median income), and will prioritize new construction activities to expand the housing stock for this population.

In addition to helping to meet the substantial unmet need of extremely low income renters, Minnesota Housing has defined the following Strategic and Selection priorities. As described in the previous section, the Strategic Priority policies describe the main strategic focus and driving policy goals of Minnesota Housing in the current funding round, and will be of primary importance in the evaluation of applications. The Selection Priorities capture other elements that are beneficial to a project. These priorities, described below, are communicated to potential applications through the "Multifamily Request for Proposal Guide." The Guide is attached in its entirety.

- Access to Fixed Transit
- Greater Minnesota Workforce Housing
- Economic Integration
- Tribal
- Planned Community Development
- Preservation (including federally assisted housing)
- Supportive Housing

Among proposals that best satisfy these Strategic Priorities, Minnesota Housing will give priority in awarding funding to the proposals that best meet the greatest number of selection priorities in effect at the time of the RFP. These are given less weight in evaluation than the Strategic Priorities. Selection

priorities may be found in the “Multifamily Request for Proposal Guide” and are listed below.

- Large Family Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing for High Priority Homeless
- Consistency with Local Continuum of Care Priorities
- People with Disabilities
- Serves Lowest Income Tenants/Affordable to the Local Workforce
- Rental Assistance
- Long Term Affordability
- Economic Integration
- Access to Higher Performing Schools
- Workforce Housing Communities
- Location Efficiency
- Planned Community Development
- Eventual Tenant Ownership
- QCT/Community Revitalization and Tribal Equivalent Areas
- Rural/Tribal
- Federal, Local, Philanthropic, Employer Contributions
- Minority Owned/Women Owned Business Enterprise
- Preservation
- Financial Readiness to Proceed.
- Greater Minnesota Workforce Housing – Meaningful Employer Contribution
- High Speed Internet
- Universal Design

i. Describe the grantee’s required priority for funding based on the extent to which the application makes use of non-federal funding sources. If not distributing funds by selecting applications submitted by eligible recipients, enter “N/A”.

Minnesota Housing’s NHTF funds will leverage other agency, private, and low income housing tax credit investment. The NHTF funds will be made available through the agency’s Consolidated RFP, which consolidates and coordinates multiple housing resources into one application process. Funding partners include the Metropolitan Council, Department and Employment and Economic Development, Family Housing Fund and Greater Minnesota Housing Fund. Financing opportunities that could be leveraged with NHTF funds include several nonfederal sources through the State of Minnesota:

- Amortizing first mortgages through the State of Minnesota’s Low and Moderate Income Rental

Program

- Deferred loans through State of Minnesota funded Economic Development and Housing Challenge program
- Deferred loans through the State of Minnesota funded Preservation Affordable Rental Investment Fund
- Housing Investment Bonds through the State of Minnesota

Two of the agency's selection priorities incorporate a projects ability to leverage other resources. These include federal, local, philanthropic, and employer contributions; and financial readiness to proceed.

4. Does the grantee's application require the applicant to include a description of the eligible activities to be conducted with HTF funds? If not distributing funds by selecting applications submitted by eligible recipients, select "N/A".

Yes

5. Does the grantee's application require that each eligible recipient certify that housing units assisted with HTF funds will comply with HTF requirements? If not distributing funds by selecting applications submitted by eligible recipients, select "N/A".

Yes

6. Performance Goals and Benchmarks. The grantee has met the requirement to provide for performance goals and benchmarks against which the grantee will measure its progress, consistent with the grantee's goals established under 24 CFR 91.315(b)(2), by including HTF in its housing goals in the housing table on the SP-45 Goals and AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives screens.

Yes

7. Maximum Per-unit Development Subsidy Amount for Housing Assisted with HTF Funds.

Enter or attach the grantee's maximum per-unit development subsidy limits for housing assisted with HTF funds.

The limits must be adjusted for the number of bedrooms and the geographic location of the project. The limits must also be reasonable and based on actual costs of developing non-luxury housing in the area. If the grantee will use existing limits developed for other federal programs such as the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) per unit cost limits, HOME's maximum per-

unit subsidy amounts, and/or Public Housing Development Cost Limits (TDCs), it must include a description of how the HTF maximum per-unit development subsidy limits were established or a description of how existing limits developed for another program and being adopted for HTF meet the HTF requirements specified above.

Minnesota will establish the maximum per unit development subsidy at the same level as per unit cost thresholds established the cost containment methodology associated with the State's Low Income Housing Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP). The thresholds, based upon total actual development costs for developments funded by Minnesota Housing since 2002, are adjusted for number of bedrooms and geographic location of the project. Despite the per unit subsidy limits, subsidies may be further limited on individual projects based on the result of subsidy layering reviews and the financing needs of the project.

Per unit subsidy limits are set forth in the table attached, but are subject to change whenever a new QAP is adopted or modified. Adjustments are made in response to cost trends. Any changes will continue to be reasonable, based on actual costs, and adjusted for the number of bedrooms and geographic location of the program.

8. Rehabilitation Standards. The grantee must establish rehabilitation standards for all HTF-assisted housing rehabilitation activities that set forth the requirements that the housing must meet upon project completion. The grantee's description of its standards must be in sufficient detail to determine the required rehabilitation work including methods and materials. The standards may refer to applicable codes or they may establish requirements that exceed the minimum requirements of the codes. The grantee must attach its rehabilitation standards below. In addition, the rehabilitation standards must address each of the following: health and safety; major systems; lead-based paint; accessibility; disaster mitigation (where relevant); state and local codes, ordinances, and zoning requirements; Uniform Physical Condition Standards; and Capital Needs Assessments (if applicable).

All NHTF units must comply with Minnesota Housing's Multifamily Rental Housing Design/Construction Standards, including Chapter 9, Design, Construction, and Property Standards for Federally Funded Projects. These standards are attached. Chapter 9 provides federal program requirements, while projects must achieve all requirements detailed in the guide.

9. Resale or Recapture Guidelines. Below, the grantee must enter (or attach) a description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HTF funds when used to assist first-time homebuyers. If the grantee will not use HTF funds to assist first-time homebuyers, enter "N/A".

N/A

10. HTF Affordable Homeownership Limits. If the grantee intends to use HTF funds for homebuyer assistance and does not use the HTF affordable homeownership limits for the area provided by HUD, it must determine 95 percent of the median area purchase price and set forth the information in accordance with §93.305. If the grantee will not use HTF funds to assist first-time homebuyers, enter “N/A”.

Any limitation or preference must not violate nondiscrimination requirements in § 93.350, and the grantee must not limit or give preferences to students. The grantee may permit rental housing owners to limit tenants or give a preference in accordance with § 93.303(d)(3) only if such limitation or preference is described in the action plan.

Minnesota Housing does not limit to segments of the NHTF eligible population. Minnesota Housing makes an effort to integrate units targeted to households experiencing homelessness or those at risk of homelessness across a variety of developments. In the appropriate situation, Minnesota Housing may utilize NHTF funds in units that are targeted to High Priority Homeless households or whose eligibility is limited to High Priority Homeless households. In the interest of furthering economic integration, High Priority Homeless units typically make up a small number of units in each development.

12. Refinancing of Existing Debt. Enter or attach the grantee’s refinancing guidelines below. The guidelines describe the conditions under which the grantee will refinance existing debt. The grantee’s refinancing guidelines must, at minimum, demonstrate that rehabilitation is the primary eligible activity and ensure that this requirement is met by establishing a minimum level of rehabilitation per unit or a required ratio between rehabilitation and refinancing. If the grantee will not refinance existing debt, enter “N/A.”

Minnesota Housing will not use NHTF to refinance existing debt.

Discussion:

Strategic Plan

2018 Substantial Amendment

Amendment Made to SP-25 Priority Needs

Priority needs for item 6, "Low-Moderate Income Renter Households", were amended to include high priority homeless and persons with disabilities as priority populations to allow for limitation to or preference of these populations in HOME and NHTF activities, provided these limitations or preferences do not violate nondiscrimination requirements.

SP-25 is attached in full, indicating the changed language from the current approved Consolidated Plan in red.

SP-25 Priority Needs – 91.315(a)(2)

Priority Needs

Table 1 – Priority Needs Summary

1	Priority Need Name	Homelessness
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Rural Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth
	Geographic Areas Affected	Statewide
	Associated Goals	Facilitate Housing and Service for the Homeless
	Description	Homelessness continues to be a high priority throughout the State
	Basis for Relative Priority	This priority was established using the Needs Assessment, survey, public and stakeholder input.
2	Priority Need Name	Low-Moderate Income Renter/Owner Situations
	Priority Level	High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents
	Geographic Areas Affected	Non-Entitlement
	Associated Goals	Provide Decent Affordable housing-DEED
	Description	Fund housing rehabilitation activities for Low-Moderate income renter and owner households are a high priority in the state due to the level of cost burdens and other housing needs for these households. DEED.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This priority needs was established through the Needs Assessment, survey, public and stakeholder input.
3	Priority Need Name	Economic Opportunities
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Statewide
	Associated Goals	Promote Economic Development
	Description	Economic Opportunities continue to be a high priority for the State to encourage continued economic growth.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This priority was established using the Market Analysis, surveys, public and stakeholder input.

4	Priority Need Name	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Statewide
	Associated Goals	Address Public Facility- Infrastructure Needs-DEED
	Description	There are many community needs throughout the State that can be met through public facilities and infrastructure. This continues to be a high level need for the State.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This priority was established through the Needs Assessment, Market Analysis , surveys, and public and stakeholder input.
5	Priority Need Name	Human Services
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families Victims of Domestic Violence
	Geographic Areas Affected	Statewide
	Associated Goals	Provide Funds for Special-Needs Housing & Services
	Description	Special Needs populations continue to have a variety of unmet needs. Human services continue to be a high priority in the State.

	Basis for Relative Priority	This priority was established through the Needs Assessment, surveys, and public and stakeholder input.
6	Priority Need Name	Low-Moderate Income Renter Households
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Chronic Homelessness Homeless Individuals Homeless Families with Children Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions
	Geographic Areas Affected	Statewide
	Associated Goals	Enhance Affordable Housing Opportunities- Minnesota Housing

	Description	<p>Extremely Low, Low and Moderate income renter households are a high priority in the state due to the level of cost burdens and other housing needs for these households.</p> <p>Minnesota Housing funds such housing activities for low to moderate income rental households, including renovation and new construction.</p> <p>Within the income priority, Minnesota Housing also considers special needs populations as a priority in the state, and will allow, when appropriate, a limitation or preference to those populations. Two special needs populations allowed with regards to HOME and National Housing Trust Fund funding are permanent supportive housing for "High Priority Homeless" and people with disabilities. High Priority Homeless means (i) households experiencing long-term homelessness; (ii) households at significant risk of experiencing long-term homelessness; or (iii) households priorities for permanent supportive housing by the Coordinated Entry System adopted by the local continuums of care. For persons with disabilities, the limitation or preference will be limited to the population of families (including individuals) that significantly interfere with their ability to obtain and maintain housing. In accordance with regulatory requirements of HOME and the National Housing Trust Fund, any limitation or preference will not violate nondiscrimination requirements.</p>
	Basis for Relative Priority	<p>This priority needs was established through the Needs Assessment, survey, public and stakeholder input.</p>

Narrative (Optional)

#2 need is to be used for DEED priorities. #6 is to be used for Minnesota Housing priorities.